



Students of Abinta Kabir Foundation School sing in chorus celebrating the first anniversary of the school in the capital's Bhatara yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## Grabbing

FROM PAGE 2  
grabbed and then used for making houses.

The encroachment was also seen at the end point of Rajakhali, where the canal meets the Karnaphuli.

Asked, Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Mohammed Elias Hossen told The Daily Star that there was a confusion initially regarding which kind of survey would be carried out -- RS or BS -- to base the evictions on.

"We finally received instructions to proceed with RS survey", he said, adding that, with two thousand structures to be demolished, they need a lot of manpower and a large budget.

Elias also said they recently wrote to the land ministry requesting allocation of Tk 1.20 crore to be able to comply with the court order.

Lawyer Monjil Morshed, who filed the writ on which the HC issued the order to evict the illegal structures, told The Daily Star that the order was issued on August 2016.

"On the 25th, we sent a notice to the district administration, Chittagong City Corporation mayor, and the Chittagong development authority, stating that they did not comply with the HC order and they must do so within seven days. If they do not relocate within this timeframe, we will begin eviction."

"In these two years, we did not find any steps taken to comply with HC order. If they still do not respond, we would resort to filing a defamation case of court against them," he added.

Dr Mujibur Rahman Howladar, chairman of National River Protection Commission, told The Daily Star that the task of evicting illegal structures lies with the office of deputy secretary of Chittagong, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), and Water Development Board.

"I issued a letter asking deputy secretaries and divisional commissioners to let me know the condition of the rivers of their respective territories. We will visit Karnaphuli and Halda this month to observe their condition and will organise seminars to learn the opinions of locals," he added.

Karnaphuli researcher and professor Idris Ali told The Daily Star that had the authorities been sincere, they could have evicted the illegal structures much earlier.

"Deputy secretary of Chittagong, Chittagong City Corporation and Chittagong Port Authority are buying time to execute the order as they are reluctant to bother the politically influential persons involved in the land-grabbing," he added.

He opined that the government needs to take stricter action to save Karnaphuli, a river deemed as the lifeline of the country's economy.

Almost 800 factories release untreated waste into the river, he said, adding that environment department officials hardly took action against them.

The 1989-90 Hydrographic Survey Chart showed the river's width at 870 metres at Bridgeghat point, while the 2009-10 chart puts it at 600 metres.

One-third of 1,200-1,400 tonnes of solid and liquid waste from the city of six million people go to the river through 30 canals every day, as Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority is yet to set up plants for treating waste, Edris Ali added.

## Six die

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The deceased were identified as Jahangir Talukder, 38, Fazna Begum, 28, Layek Mia, 22, Nahid Mia, 24, Saif Ahmed, 12, and Shahdat Talukder, 24.

Layek, the driver of the autorickshaw, and Nahid, a passenger of the autorickshaw, died on the spot.

The seven others were rushed to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital, where four of them died, said Polash Roy, resident doctor at the hospital.

Two of the injured were identified as Yasmin Begum and Nurunnahar, said Suhel Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Moulvibazar Police Station.

## In memory of a loved one

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dream of Abinta Kabir, who was killed in the Holey Artisan Bakery on the fateful July night two years ago.

Students sang in remembrance of Abinta. A short film titled Abinta's Paradise was screened.

In the Holey Artisan attack, 22 innocent lives were lost. Abinta was there with her friends Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain and Tarishi Jain.

The militants, who mostly targeted foreign nationals, had asked Faraaz to leave. But he refused to leave his friends behind and was eventually killed along with them.

They were three beautiful human beings, who stood by each other during the most frightening event of their lives, said Ruba Ahemd, Abinta's mother and co-founder of Abinta Kabir Foundation.

Abinta lived by five core values: trust, determination, gratitude, respect, and open-mindedness, said Ruba, as she read out excerpts from her daughter's notebook.

"When most parents want their children to follow their footsteps, I try to follow my daughter's," said the teary-eyed mother.

"Abinta is part of my soul and she will always be with me."

Ruba said the school's walls and classrooms were decorated in the way Abinta's elementary school was decorated.

The school has 64 students in pre-

kindergarten, kindergarten, class-I and class-II. Each class has 16 girls between four and seven. The classes have an average of 95 percent attendance, said teachers.

At the beginning of yesterday's programme, a minute's silence was observed to commemorate the Holey Artisan victims, especially Faraaz, Abinta and Tarishi.

Speaking at the programme, National Professor Anisuzzaman said, "Abinta's life was cut short by the cruel hands of mindless assassins, but her dreams live on."

He hoped that the school would develop further in the years to come and prove that love, not hatred, had won.

Brac founder Sir Fazle Hasan Abed said Abinta always thought about the wellbeing of poor people, underprivileged children's education, and discrimination in society.

There is a lot more to do to make her dreams come true, he said.

Lauding Abinta's mother for her role in making the person that Abinta was, US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Bernicat hoped that Abinta's thoughts would be implemented by the school's students and teachers.

Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, director, Brac Institute of Languages at Brac University, also spoke at the programme.

## What an ordeal I am facing'

FROM PAGE 1  
Moments after finishing the meal, Toriql vomited. Nurses rushed in and asked his attendants to inform them if he vomits again.

His friends are looking after him by turns. They are bearing his medical expenses with donations.

"Some of those visiting him are donating to us," said Manjurul Alam, one of his friends. He said they have so far spent Tk 30,000 for different tests and now hardly any money is left for further treatment.

A hospital staff said Toriql was undergoing treatment under Sayeed Ahmed, also an orthopaedic surgeon at Puthia Health Complex.

Talking to The Daily Star over the phone, Dr Sayeed said he would see Toriql after 8:30pm.

Contacted after an hour, the surgeon said he saw Toriql's test reports at his chamber minutes ago and he would later visit the patient.

Toriql's condition deteriorated since his release from Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH), he said.

"I learnt from his latest x-ray report that the alignment of his broken bones has changed. It is due to his movement while being shifted from one hospital to another."

"We will manually try to bring his bones in proper alignment. If it is not corrected this way, he would require a surgery in two or three days."

The doctor suspected some problems in Toriql's backbone seeing the latest x-ray report. It was not detected during his treatment at the RMCH, he said.

"Toriql has complained of severe pains in his back. I could not come to any decision from the x-ray report. For confirmation, I recommended an MRI and a CT scan."

Earlier, Dr Sayeed had said, "Toriql's broken bones came out through his skin. He will need a surgery after two weeks when the cut areas are likely to be fixed. He has a serious head injury and we also need to wait for its healing to conduct the surgery."

BCL men attacked Toriql on July 2 with a hammer, bamboo poles and sticks leaving both the bones of his right leg fractured. He was going to join a procession demanding the gazette notification on quota reforms in government jobs.

Toriql got admitted to the RMCH the same day but the state-run hospital released him on Thursday despite

repeated requests by family and friends to keep him for a few more days. He was later shifted to the Royal Hospital.

Talking to The Daily Star, Rajshahi University teacher Moloy Bhowmik said the RMCH authorities should explain their position on releasing Toriql before he got better.

"Getting treatment at a government hospital is a right of any citizen. Doctors should never judge patients based on their political views," he said.

Another RU teacher, Abdullah Al Mamun, said releasing Toriql from hospital was an "inhuman act".

Murad Morshed, district coordinator of Ganosamhati Andolon, said, "The doctors in Rajshahi are showing reluctance in providing proper treatment to the patient."

Talking to this correspondent while visiting Toriql, Murad alleged that the release from RMCH was done "with the ulterior motive" to project his grievous injuries as minor ones and provide his attackers an opportunity to avoid tougher punishment in court.

Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul, ex-mayor and city BNP president, who also visited Toriql at the hospital, said with his release from RMCH, Toriql's right to treatment as a citizen has been denied.

Prof Subrata Kumar Pramanik of RMCH Orthopaedic Surgery department, however, told this newspaper on Thursday that Toriql has to wait two weeks for surgery. "Until then, he can take rest at home but will need dressings time to time. We have accommodation problem at this hospital amid rush of patients."

Toriql's sister said proper care for her brother is not possible at their home in Gobindaganj of Gaibandha.

Both his parents are ill and they can barely afford education expenses of Fatima and her two brothers. Their family's economic condition is not good enough to bear his medical expenses.

She mentioned that a BCL man went to their home in Gobindaganj and asked her parents whether Toriql and other family members are involved with Jamaat-e-Islami. Two other men also visited their house and questioned them.

"We were never involved in politics," she said.

## Croatia

FROM PAGE 1  
have a population of little over four million, but amongst that number are two of the finest midfielders in the world in Rakitic and Luka Modric.

They dominated the match, but Russia contributed to another fantastic occasion in what has been an outstanding World Cup.

The hosts went ahead thanks to a bolt from the blue just after the half-hour mark.

Cheryshev, who scored three times in the group-stage wins over Saudi Arabia and Egypt, was back in the line-up here after beginning on the bench against Spain last weekend.

He cut in from the left, exchanged passes with Artem Dzyuba and skipped away from a Modric challenge before firing home a superb shot from 25 yards on his left foot.

Croatia were stunned. But the Russian lead had lasted only eight minutes before they drew level, Mario Mandzukic cutting the ball back for Kramaric to head home.

Ivan Perisic hit the post for Croatia in a second half they controlled, yet they had to limp on into extra-time, with goalkeeper Danijel Subasic providing a scare as he hurt a hamstring late on.

However, Croatia took the lead for the first time in the 101st minute, defender Vida getting his head to a corner to send the ball low into the net, helped by substitute Vedran Corluka getting out of the way.

Vida removed his shirt as he ran away in celebration, possibly thinking Croatia were heading through.

However, Russia found the resources to draw level again, substitute Alan Dzagoev holding up a free-kick for Fernandes to head home in the 115th minute.

His shoot-out miss proved pivotal, however, especially after Smolov's weak attempt at a chipped penalty was saved by Subasic.

For Croatia, Mateo Kovacic had his penalty saved, but Marcelo Brozovic, Modric and Vida all netted theirs before Rakitic stroked in the winner.

Earlier in the day, Harry Maguire and Dele Alli scored as England comfortably defeated Sweden 2-0 in Samara to reach the World Cup semi-finals for the first time since 1990.

Leicester defender Maguire headed in the opening goal from a corner on 30 minutes, with Alli adding a second just before the hour.

Goalkeeper Jordan Pickford then produced a series of crucial saves in the final half-hour to seal England's long-awaited spot in the last four.

## New literature

FROM PAGE 12  
forces to form a new prize-giving body in protest after the Swedish Academy, which selects Nobel laureates, was plunged into crisis over its long-standing ties to a man accused of assaulting several women.

The alternative honour serves to denounce "bias, arrogance and sexism", according to its founders The New Academy, whose members include authors, artists and journalists.

It is meant to "remind people that literature and culture at large should promote democracy, transparency, empathy and respect, without privilege", the 107 intellectuals wrote in a joint statement.

As the #MeToo movement has made waves globally, the Swedish Academy descended into turmoil in November when local media published the testimonies of 18 women claiming to have been raped, sexually assaulted or harassed by an influential French cultural figure who has long been connected to the institution.

The revelations led the Academy to announce in May there will be no Nobel Literature Prize this year, as disagreements on how to deal with the scandal sowed deep discord among its 18 members and prompted six to quit -- including the first woman permanent secretary Sara Danius.

But for some the lack of a Nobel literature award for the first time in almost 70 years was unacceptable.

"Sweden is one of the world's most democratic, transparent and gender-equal countries... it needs a great literary prize," Swedish columnist and one of the founders of the new prize, Alexandra Pascalidou, told AFP.

The Swedish Academy's members used to be appointed for life before its patron, Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf, was forced to change the statutes, making it possible for members to resign and be replaced.

Resigning member Kjell Espmark told the Dagens Nyheter newspaper that the institution had "given way to nepotism, attempts to cover up serious violations, stale macho values and arrogant bullying".

Seen as the bearer of high culture, the Swedish Academy, founded in 1786, is traditionally known for its integrity and discretion, with meetings and decisions on prizes kept secret.

But the New Academy plans to make its prize-awarding process transparent.

"We want to create something which is open and inclusive and which allows people to contribute," said Pascalidou.

The new literature award -- which carries a prize of one million kronor (around 97,000 euros, \$113,000) -- raised from crowdfunding and donations -- will be handed out at a December 10 ceremony, the same day as the Nobel banquet.

## One killed

FROM PAGE 2  
OC Anwar alleged that Mostafa was an active drug peddler.

He added that four police officials -- SI Minto Hossain, DB SI Abdur Rahman, Mostafa Jamal and Constable Nahid Hossain -- were injured in the gunfight.

In Rajshahi, Abdul Malek, 48, another suspected drug peddler, was injured after being shot by police in Charghat upazila early yesterday.

The incident occurred at around 2:30am, when a team of DB police challenged a group of suspected drugs peddlers at Joypur-Yousufpur road at Muktarpur area of the upazila, reports our Rajshahi correspondent quoting police.

When police stopped the alleged drug peddlers, they attacked the law enforcers with machetes. Police opened fire in retaliation, said Ataur Rahman, OC of DB of Rajshahi district police.

While Manik lay injured on the ground, the others managed to flee. Police took Manik to Charghat Health Complex and he was later shifted to RMCH. Police seized 120 bottles of Phenisidyl and three machetes from the spot.

Police said Malek was accused in ten drugs related cases filed with Charghat

Police Station.

In Lalmonirhat, Zahurul Islam, 45, another suspected drug peddler, was injured from gunshots in Kadamtola Bridge area of Chandrapur union at Kaliganj upazila in Lalmonirhat on Friday night.

Based on information that four to five drug smugglers were transporting contraband drugs in Kadamtola Bridge, a police team raided the area. When the alleged smugglers tried to flee, police opened fire on them. Zahurul sustained bullet injuries in his leg.

Police arrested him and sent him to the upazila health complex where he is undergoing treatment, reports our Lalmonirhat correspondent quoting police.

Police seized five kilograms of marijuana and 55 yaba pills from Zahurul's possessions, claimed Maqbul Hossain, OC of Kaliganj Police Station.

Zahurul was accused in six drug cases with the police station, the OC added.

With the latest additions, at least 167 suspected drug peddlers have been killed since the anti-narcotics drive began on May 4. Most of the dead were killed in "shootouts" with police and Rapid Action Battalion.

## 10 hurt in clash

FROM PAGE 12  
during the clash.

The injured included constable Samapta Nokrek, 27, Hasan, 25, of Mirganj area and Monir, 25, of Gazir Khamar area. They have been admitted to Sherpur Sadar Hospital, while the other injured were given the first aid.

The police, witnesses and madrasa authorities said a meeting of the madrasa managing committee was convened yesterday. District AL advisory committee member Md Abdul Wadud and district BNP convening committee former joint convener Md Saiful Islam have been working as the president and general secretary of the current managing committee respectively.

A group has been opposing Saiful Islam's position as the general secretary of the managing committee. Tension has been prevailing over the issue for long.

District AL vice-president Minhazuddin and his supporters Fakhru Majid, Khandker Nazrul Islam and Anwarul Hasan and district Chhatra League president Shoeb Ahmed Shakil and a huge number of students and people from the eastern side of the district took position on the madrasa premises yesterday.

When the news spread, District Council Chairman Md Humayun Kabir, Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman Md Sanuar Hossain, Vice-Chairman Md Bayezid Hasan and

students and people from the western side of the district also came to the madrasa premises.

Eventually, tension mounted on the madrasa premises and its adjoining areas and both sides locked in a clash at one stage.

District AL vice-president Minhazuddin alleged that some top office bearers of the present managing committee have grabbed the posts for long and been patronising the BNP and Jamaat supporters. He further alleged that Jamaat-Shibir elements have been conducting anti-government activities from the madrasa premises.

District Council Chairman Humayun Kabir's younger brother Yakub Ali assaulted Minhazuddin yesterday on the madrasa premises for his protest, he claimed.

Humayun denied the allegation and said his younger brother did not assault anyone.

Madrasa committee's incumbent president Abdul Wadud said the madrasa has become a political institution, adding that there is no scope for running political activities at the madrasa. He informed that yesterday's meeting was suspended.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Sadar Circle) Md Aminul Islam said the situation is under control as extra police force was deployed in and around the madrasa.

## Window

FROM PAGE 12  
Heavy rains could make the water rise to the shelf where the children are sitting, reducing the area to "less than 10 square meters," he added, citing estimates from cave divers and experts.

In the early hours of yesterday morning he said the boys were not yet ready to dive-out of the cave, a complex and dangerous task through twisting and jagged submerged passageways.

But his comments 12 hours later suggest the thinking has changed, with water levels inside the cave currently managed to their lowest point by constant drainage.

'I LOVE YOU DAD, MUM'

Earlier yesterday Thai Navy SEALs published touching notes scrawled by the trapped footballers to their families, who are waiting for them agonisingly close-by outside the cave entrance.

The children urged relatives "not to worry" and asked for their favourite food once they are safely evacuated.

In one Pheerapat, nicknamed "Night", whose 16th birthday the group were celebrating in the cave when they became stuck on June 23, said:

"I love you, Dad, Mum and my sister. You don't need to be worried about me."

Meanwhile the 25-year-old coach Ekkapol Chantawong, the only adult to accompany the boys into the cave, sent his "apologies" to their parents.

"To all the parents, all the kids are still fine. I promise to take the very best care of the kids," he said in a note given to divers on Friday.

"Thank you for all the moral support and I apologise to the parents."

The boys are being trained in the basics of diving in case the floodwaters force authorities into a sudden evacuation.

'LIMITED TIME'

The risks were underlined by the death on Friday of a former Thai Navy SEAL diver, who ran out of oxygen while returning from the chamber where the boys are trapped.

Saman Kunan had been trying to establish the air line when he passed out and perished.

"We lost one man, but we still have faith to carry out our work," Navy Seal commander Apakorn Yoongkaew said, adding that rescuers have "a limited time" to extract the boys.

Ekkapol's message is the first from the coach, whose role in the team's predicament has split Thai social media.

Many have lauded him after reports he gave his share of food to the kids before they were located and helped them get through nine days in the darkness.

Others have criticised him for agreeing to take the young boys into the cave during the monsoon season.

The group became trapped deep inside the cave after flood waters gushed in.

## Pope fears for Christian presence in Mideast

AFP, Bari

Pope Francis yesterday voiced concern that Christians will disappear from the Middle East amid "murderous indifference" as war rages on.

"The Middle East has become a land of people who leave their own lands behind," Francis said.

He was addressing the leaders of almost all the Middle Eastern churches gathered in the Italian port city of Bari to pray for peace in the region.

"There is also the danger that the presence of our brothers and sisters in the faith will disappear, disfiguring the very face of the region," the pope warned.

"For a Middle East without Christians would not be the Middle East."

"Indifference kills, and we desire to lift up our voices in opposition to this murderous indifference."

Among those attending the ecumenical meeting in southern Italy are the patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, the spiritual leader of the eastern orthodox church, and metropolitan Hilarion of the Russian orthodox church which is powerful in Syria.

Patriarch Tawadros II is representing Egypt's orthodox Copts alongside six patriarch of eastern Catholic churches.

"We want to give a voice to those who have none, to those who can only wipe away their tears," the pope said ahead of talks with the church leaders.

"For the Middle East today is weeping, suffering and silent as others trample upon those lands in search of power or riches."

Francis described the region as "the crossroads of civilisations and the cradle of the great monotheistic religions".